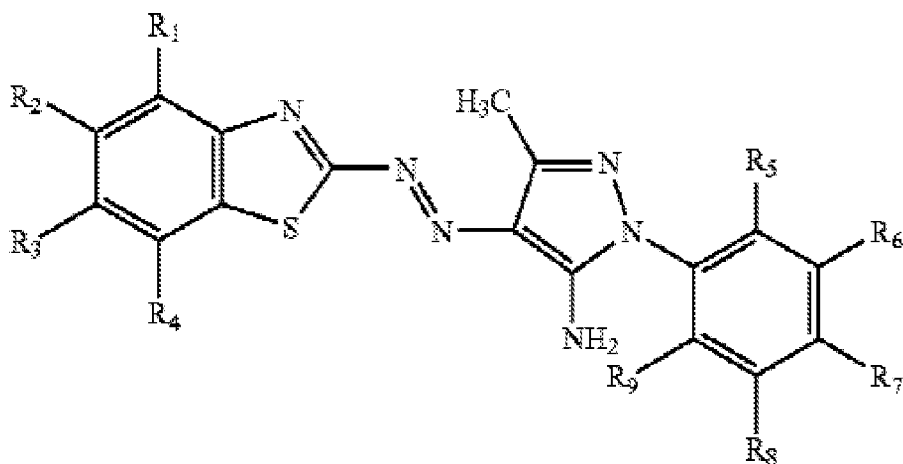


REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: This application teaches an azo dyestuff according to the formula (I), a salt of the dyestuff, or a mixture of the dyestuffs:

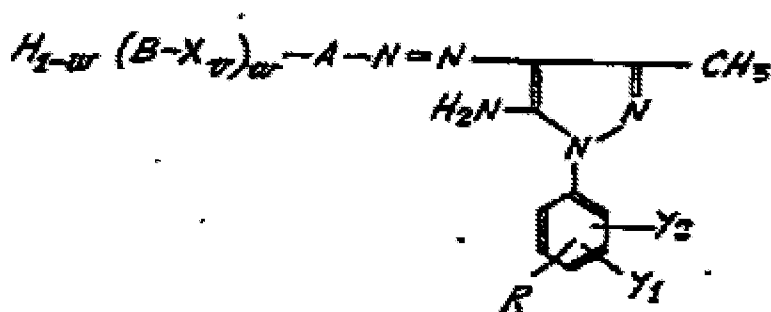
(I)



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ independently from each other is H, SO₃H, SO₂R, SO₂RNR'R'', COOR, COOH, OH, alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, NCOCH₃ or NR'R'', or two neighboring substituents R₁, R₂, R₃ or R₄ form together a ring annealed to the benzothiazole moiety and is unsubstituted or substituted by SO₃H and wherein at least two of the substituents R₁, R₂, R₃ or R₄ are H; R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉ independently from each other is H, alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, SO₃H, NR'R'', or two neighboring substituents R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈ or R₉ form together a ring annealed to the phenyl moiety and is unsubstituted or substituted by SO₃H and wherein at least two of the substituents R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈ or R₉ are H; R is H, alkyl or aryl group, substituted or unsubstituted, R' and R'' are independently from each other H, alkyl or alkoxy or aryl groups, substituted or unsubstituted, with the proviso that at least

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one of the substituents R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 or R_9 is different from H, and the compound according to formula (I) bears at least one sulfo group, which is located in the coupling component and an ink comprising the above dyestuff. The closest prior art of record is GB 1413315, which teaches a water-soluble azo reactive dye of the formula



wherein Y_1 and Y_2 each independently represent H, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group or a sulfo group with the proviso that only one of Y_1 and Y_2 is H; A is an aromatic heterocyclic ring such as a benzothiazole ring that may be substituted with a sulfo group, a sulfamoyl group, N-lower alkyl-sulfamoyl group, N,N-di-lower alkyl sulfamoyl group, a carboxy group, an amino group, a lower alkyl amino group, a hydroxy group or a lower alkoxy group; R is a group of the formula $-SO_2-CH_2-CH_2-Z$; Z represents a hydroxy group and v and w are both zero but fails to teach or fairly suggest the azo dye of the formula as claimed by applicants. Accordingly, this application is allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Helene Klemanski whose telephone number is (571) 272-1370. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry Lorengo can be reached on (571) 272-1233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Helene Klemanski/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1793